

Revision of the 2008 Fuel Model Guide to Alaska Vegetation

Background

The Fuel Model Guide to Alaska Vegetation was developed by an interagency team of fire practitioners and vegetation mappers/specialists in 2008. It crosswalked vegetation types described in the Alaska Vegetation Classification (Viereck et al. 1992) with three fuel model sets:

- 40 Fire Behavior Fuel Models (FBFM40; Scott and Burgan 2005)
- 13 Fire Behavior Fuel Models (FBFM13; Anderson 1983)
- Canadian Forest Fire Behavior Prediction System (CFFBPS; Taylor et al. 1997)

The Fuel Model Guide provided an excellent foundation for understanding fuels and vegetation in Alaska, but by 2014 it was felt that an update was needed for several reasons. Scott and Burgan's (2005) 40 Fire Behavior Fuel Models were relatively new when the original Guide was being developed, and since then we have more experience working with them in Alaska. Likewise, we have improved our use and understanding of the CFFBPS. Advances in spatial fire behavior modeling on a landscape level have allowed us to more readily compare modeled to actual fire behavior under different conditions and fuel model assignments. The advent and use of the LANDFIRE landscape in modeling applications has resulted in the need for crosswalks to LANDFIRE parameters. And, finally, the revised guide will include better photo documentation and improvements and additions in vegetation types and descriptions.

Your Input is Needed!

The information posted on this site includes edits made to the original Guide to date, in Track Changes format so you can see what was modified from the original. A spreadsheet with a summary of changes is also included. We are looking for feedback from people familiar with fire in these vegetation types, particularly in Closed Black Spruce and Open Black Spruce forest types. The original guide is posted at <https://www.frames.gov/partner-sites/afsc/partner-groups/fire-behavior-modeling-group/modeling-products-guides/#FuelModelGuide>. For reference, the Alaska Vegetation Classification by Viereck et al. can be found at: <http://137.229.141.57/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Viereck-et-al.-1992-Alaska-Vegetation-Classification.pdf>

For questions or comments, please contact

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References

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